

Chess Scotland Management Board

Date: Wednesday 24th February 2016.

Minutes of meeting

Apologies:

Douglas Bryson, Andy Burnett

(Both have made submissions which were circulated to attendees and are attached to these minutes)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the December meeting have been circulated and there were no matters arising.

2. Budgetary Items

a. Scottish Championship

There was a lengthy discussion on this by the board. Venues in Glasgow are proving to be expensive and exceed our available budget. We need to consider a possible return to Edinburgh for this year.

Dates currently being considered are 9th – 17th July

Ian Brownlee has offered to explore his business contacts and see if assistance in sourcing a venue can be obtained.

David Congalton also offered to explore the possibilities of hotels in Perth and Ayr used as venues for the Scottish Tour Congresses.

b. Home Budget – Trophies/Medals

Ian Brownlee submitted a Trophies and Medals budget of £224 for the Home Tournaments of 2015/16. The venue for the finals of Richardson, Spens and Rosebowl is arranged and at no charge to Chess Scotland thanks to Grangemouth Chess Club.

c. Junior Budget

There are no budgetary concerns for the Junior events in the coming year.

d. International Budget

The Olympiad is expected to come within the budget, although the FIDE delegated has still to submit an estimated cost requirement for 2016/17

e. Marketing and Funding Applications

Fiona and Andy Howie are currently preparing a submission for Lottery funding and will report progress at the next meeting.

3. Planning and Strategy

a. Richardson and Spens Cups

The Home Director is proposing that in all future years a FIDE Player Registration form be created and submitted along with the club entry for these tournaments. Ian has requested that the Rules and Arbiters Committee produce a set of registration requirements, and Ian will produce the basic needs on which to build.

No changes are proposed for the Nancy Elder competition.

b. Appeals

The Appeals process for Home tournaments is to be re-instated by the Rules and Arbiters Committee.

c. Mclsaac

There was a general discussion on the appeal of the Mclsaac and what would be needed to involve more players. It was decided by the Management Board that the format for this would change to FIDE Rated Rapid Play Tournament. The Rules and Arbiters Committee will rewrite the rules for the Mclsaac, although a decision on the Rapid Play time control has yet to be determined. Ian Brownlee to advise on the time control.

d. Juniors

A new strategy for developing Junior chess is being undertaken by David Congalton and his team of helpers. This will be presented to the Management Board in due course.

e. Selection Boards

The current selection boards and requirements are in need of review; therefore, the current information is to be removed from the Website. New processes require to be developed. It was suggested that there now be a requirement for a minimum number of games be played to be eligible for International Team Selection.

Junior Selection strategy was also discussed and it is felt that not only the number of games played be considered but additionally the competitions in which they are played be taken into account. David is also looking to develop "squad" events to assist in determining selection eligibility.

f. Memberships – Clubs and Individuals

- Membership Cards – Currently these are sent to all members, new and renewing, but it is felt that these are unnecessary and these should no longer be issued. Instead a "printable" version will be included as part of the letter issued to members.
- New Members – How do we bring *new* members into Chess Scotland, not just canvassing clubs and current active players but more *new blood* currently not undertaking chess activities?
- Compulsory Membership was considered – perhaps a nominal sum + electronic copy of the CS Magazine. Is it worth investigating?

g. On-line Chess

A discussion took place on how best to entice on-line players to participate in OTB chess. Chess.com, and other websites have many members listed as Scotland and a considerable percentage of them are not visible at Clubs and Congresses. One suggestion was to run some on-line Scottish tournaments, although the format and logistics would need to be addressed.

4. Job Descriptions

Ken Stewart suggested that all Directors produce draft Job Descriptions of what they currently perceive their duties are and submit to the Management Board for review and discussion prior to a formal publication. This was accepted and agreed by the Management Board.

5. Federation Change Request

Chess Scotland, via the International Director, has received a request for a Federation Change from ESP (Spain) to SCO. Details are in the attached report from Andy Burnett.

6. Date of Next Meeting

18th or 25th May, after the Council Meeting on 30th April.

A. Appendix

- 1) Submission from Douglas Bryson – Grading**
- 2) Report from Andy Burnett – International Director**

Appendix A 1)

Douglas Bryson (CS grading)

Hi Jim,

As mentioned previously I will be unable to attend this meeting.

With regard to CS duties: grading, calendar updates, news items etc. continues as normal.

However the expansion of FIDE rating has created some admin issues which I am trying to resolve. I regard these admin issues as minor inconveniences towards the aim of expanding FIDE rating and allowing almost all players in Scotland the opportunity to achieve a world ranking. I don't think we have ever tested management board opinion on whether this (expanding FIDE rating opportunities) is something we regard as beneficial to the game here. As recently as the previous international director there was no attempt to expand FIDE rating and in many cases it was positively discouraged. So it would be useful to get an endorsement from the board that majority opinion either supports expansion of FIDE rating or at least is not against. On April 1 we should have more results of David Congalton's FIDE rated tournaments when a few more players will have qualified for an initial rating as a result of Livingston and Perth congresses. My view is FIDE rating is beneficial since you are offering players a world ranking which many players will find attractive.

I have asked FIDE about the FIDE flag issues and await a response. The regulations are by no means clear. I have even received a candid remark from FIDE official Nick Faulks "I consider these regulations to be gibberish."

I was referred to the regulations here <http://www.fide.com/fide/handbook.html?id=180&view=article> by FIDE but informed that the licensing procedure is not yet active, "as interface for licensing is not yet available".

The issue of FIDE flag arises for us from the fact that all players must have a FIN (ID) prior to any event being submitted for rating. We can only add players to the FIDE database with a SCO flag.

In the Rich/Spens club competitions it can often be the case that club officials do not comply with our request that they make sure all their players have a FIDE ID before participation. So we get the situation that we have to register players at the last minute otherwise we cannot submit the event for FIDE rating. However, the players may not fulfil our eligibility criteria as a player to whom we will permit to be registered as SCO eg the usual problem is not having been resident for two years (if cannot provide a birthplace or parent link). Since time can often be short there is no time to get a registration from their own federation.

In those circumstances it would now seem to be an attractive option to just badge any of these players as FIDE flag.

However, when I read the regulations I am not clear of the implications for any such player or how the rating officers deal with the submission of an event.

2.6 Players registered as FID are provisionally licensed to play over the board rated tournaments after paying the 'FIDE license fee' of 60 euros. 'FIDE flag players' are encouraged to join a National Federation rather continuing to play as FID.

Does that mean that until a FIDE flag player pays this money their rating data will not be recorded ie if they didn't pay then they would not be licensed.

2.11 'FIDE flag players' can be accepted to compete in any other FIDE rated tournament provided they are referred to as 'licensed'.

How could we refer to such a player as licensed since we have only just registered them as FIDE flag a few moments before we submit the results ie they will not have paid their 60 euros at this point and will thereby be unlicensed.

What does it mean anyway, "referred to as licensed". We don't refer to any of our players in a rating competition. We just list their IDs in a rating report along with their results – we don't annotate the player names.

Or does a registration for FIDE flag not produce an instant FIN? It says at 2.12 that FIDE will inform the player by email of the FIN. If that is the case the FIDE flag solution won't work as a method of permitting an event to be submitted since it would then require the player to communicate back to the rating officer what was his FIN and by the time that has happened it may be too late for the submission deadline for that event – so a whole tournament could be held up while the correspondence takes place with the FIDE flag player.

2.12 Request the Organiser's NCF to register the player and provide a FIN under the NCF flag. The FIN must be provided before the tournament is submitted for rating. FIDE will inform the player of his FIN by e-mail.

My understanding is that it is not permissible to just omit players from a rating report so how would a rating officer deal with this circumstance – just wait till the correspondence with the FIDE flag players turns up and then submit the event? Perhaps the national rating officer is copied in to the email communicating the FIN to the player.

If we have registered players as FIDE flag and eventually they do fulfil SCO qualifications can we transfer them to our Federation. The regulations indicate a "change back" fee of 25 euros but in this case it would not be back if they were initially listed as FIDE flag. We have one such player at the moment – David Burke of Newmachar who has indicated he would be happy to switch to SCO. He had acquired his FIDE ID when he joined FIDE Arena but has let his subscription lapse. I have asked how do we get the player changed but no answer. If still no answer by the time Perth Congress takes place, then we will just need to submit the event with David still badged as FIDE flag. I don't know if his results will count for rating. I will update if and when we do get any answers.

<https://ratings.fide.com/card.phtml?event=126171936>

Appendix A 2)

International Report - Andrew Burnett

Seniors

There are 4 main senior events in 2016, the first one in **Greece** in April. I am indebted to Jim Webster, Alastair White, David Congalton and many others for helping me through this first events organisation.

A late withdrawal has presented a few problems, but the organisers have agreed to give us more time to find an extra body, allowing us to hopefully field 3 teams (1 in 50+ and 2 at 65+).

The **Dresden** World Seniors in June has been announced on the website, with selections taking place at the end of March.

Craig Pritchett has unfortunately had to withdraw as a selector. His service over the years is much appreciated, and a replacement with his level of experience will be hard to find. However, I am currently sounding out a couple of players to take on this selection role and any other suggestions would be most welcome.

Adult events

The organisers of **Cappelle le Grande** offered us 4 free places with accommodation and Neil Berry, Danny McGowan, Steve Mannion and Iain Gourlay took up the offer (at no cost to CS)

The **Olympiad** dates have been subject to a change, which has meant delaying the selection process. The issue of team captain(s) for the Open and Women's teams will have to be discussed, with budgetary constraints perhaps playing a part in any decision as to sending extra non-playing persons.

The selection cut-off was moved to February 28th, with the plan to announce the chosen teams mid-March, followed by detailed planning of flights, etc.

Federation changes

A Spanish FM living in Scotland, has also applied to change federation to SCO and I would appreciate any feedback on this application.

Budget

Hopefully David Congalton can clarify any spending which has taken place already.

Going forward

There are various issues which may require discussion in the months ahead:

-selection processes: whether a high –rating and title should automatically entitle certain players to be chosen for the Olympiad or whether a decent (and set) number of games played should be formally introduced.

Also whether the Scottish champion should automatically qualify for the Olympiad/European team and what rating threshold they would require to meet.

-funding: whether money should be spent on non-playing captains for events, in particular the Olympiad

Kind regards and apologies for being unable to attend in person,

Andy Burnett